

USSN 10/667,648

Response to Final Office Action mailed 03/07/07

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing a resin coated article, the process comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition comprising an epoxy resin, a curing agent, and an alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound, wherein the alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal containing hydroxide, alkoxide, carboxylate, halide salt, borate, bicarbonate, carbonate, chlorate, nitrate, phosphate, sulfate, sulfide, sulfite, polysulfide, thiocyanate, silicate, aluminate, phosphonate, sulfonate, cyanate, thiolate, thiophenoxide, thiocarboxylate, thiophosphate, imide salt, an alkali metal ion complexed with coordinating compounds, and combinations thereof, wherein the curing agent is an amine or amide containing curing agent with epoxy reactive NH groups ~~or a phenolic curing agent~~, wherein the epoxy resin is derived from the reaction of an epihalohydrin and a phenol or a phenol type compound, and wherein the contacting occurs by a contacting method.

2. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the accelerated resin composition further comprises one or more solvent(s).

3. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the accelerated resin composition is in powder, hot melt, solution or dispersion form.

4. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the contacting method is selected from the group consisting of powder coating, spray coating, die coating, roll coating, resin infusion and contacting the substrate with a bath comprising the accelerated resin composition.

5. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of glass, fiberglass, quartz, paper, thermoplastic resin, an unwoven aramid reinforcement, carbon, graphite, ceramic, metal and combinations thereof.

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6. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the article is a prepreg, wherein the substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of glass, fiberglass, quartz, paper, thermoplastic resin, an unwoven aramid reinforcement, carbon, graphite and combinations thereof, and wherein the contacting occurs in a bath comprising the accelerated resin composition and optionally one or more solvent(s).

7. (original) The process of claim 6 wherein the substrate is glass or fiberglass in the form of a woven cloth or a mat.

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal containing hydroxide, alkoxide, phenoxide, carboxylate, halide salt, carbonate and combinations thereof.

10. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal containing compound is represented by the formula  $MOR$  or  $(MO)_n-R$  wherein  $M$  is a metal selected from Group 1 of the Periodic Table of the Elements,  $O$  is oxygen, and  $R$  is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl group.

11. (previously presented) The process of claim 10 wherein  $M$  is lithium, sodium or potassium, and  $R$  is hydrogen or a C1 to C40 hydrocarbyl group.

12. (previously presented) The process of claim 10 wherein  $OR$  represents a hydroxy, a methoxy, an ethoxy, an n-propoxy, an isopropoxy, an n-butoxy, an iso-butoxy, a sec-butoxy, a tert-butoxy, or a phenoxy group.

13. (previously presented) The accelerated epoxy resin composition of claim 10 wherein the alkali metal containing compound is selected from the group consisting of lithium hydroxide,

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sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium methoxide, potassium methoxide, lithium methoxide and combinations thereof.

14. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound is utilized in an amount greater than 0.00001 molar equivalents per 100 grams of epoxy resin solids.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the phenol or a phenol type compound is selected from the group consisting of bisphenols, halogenated bisphenols, hydrogenated bisphenols, novolac resins, polyalkylene glycols and combinations thereof.

17. (original) A resin coated article prepared by the process of claim 1.

18. (original) A prepreg prepared by the process of claim 1.